



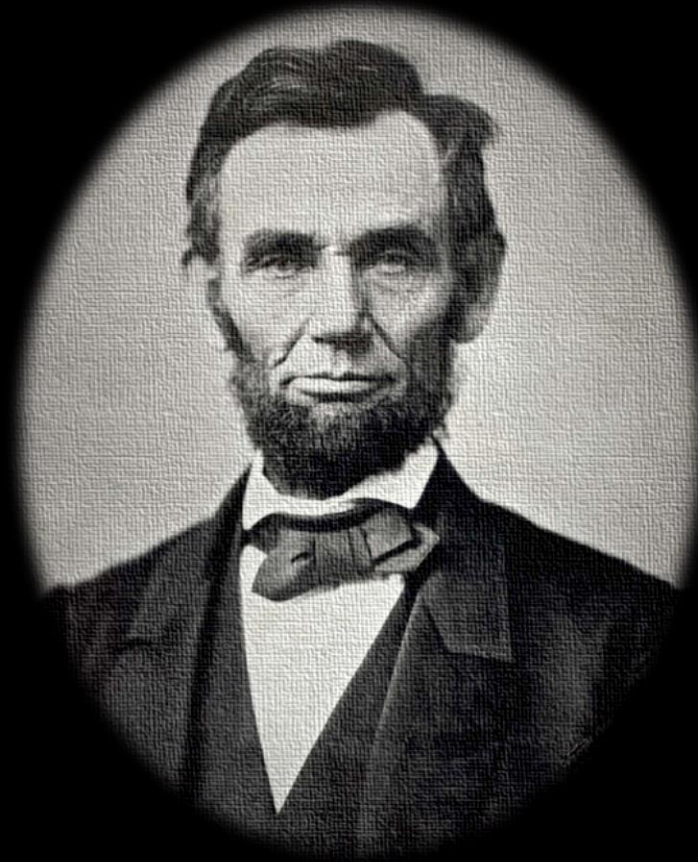
**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

**Office of Law  
Enforcement**

# **NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations**

Logan Gregory, Deputy Director

November 15, 2018



“Laws without enforcement are just good advice.”

-Abraham Lincoln

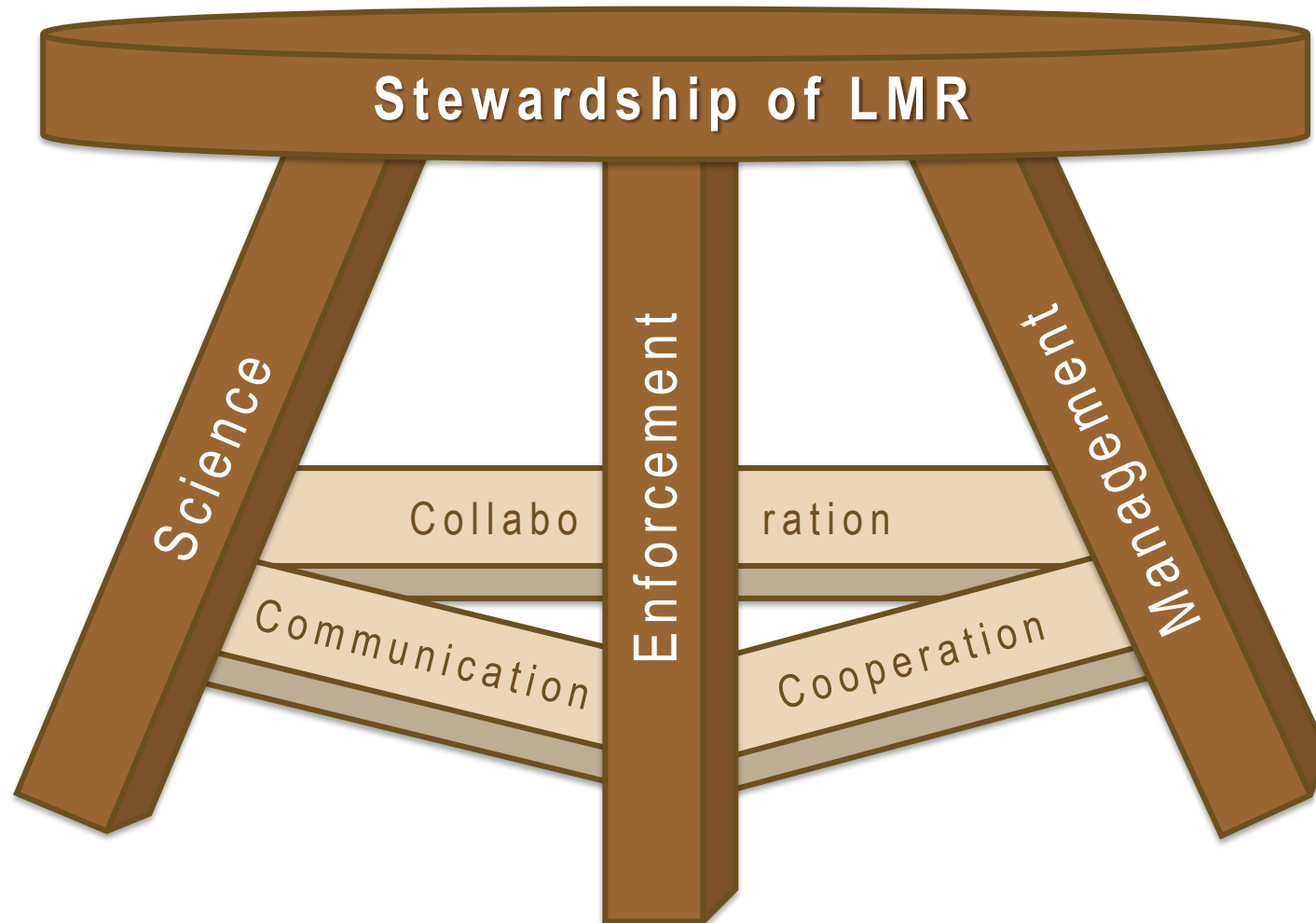
# Mission

The mission of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is to **protect global marine resources** by **enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations** dedicated to **protecting wildlife and their natural habitat** for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

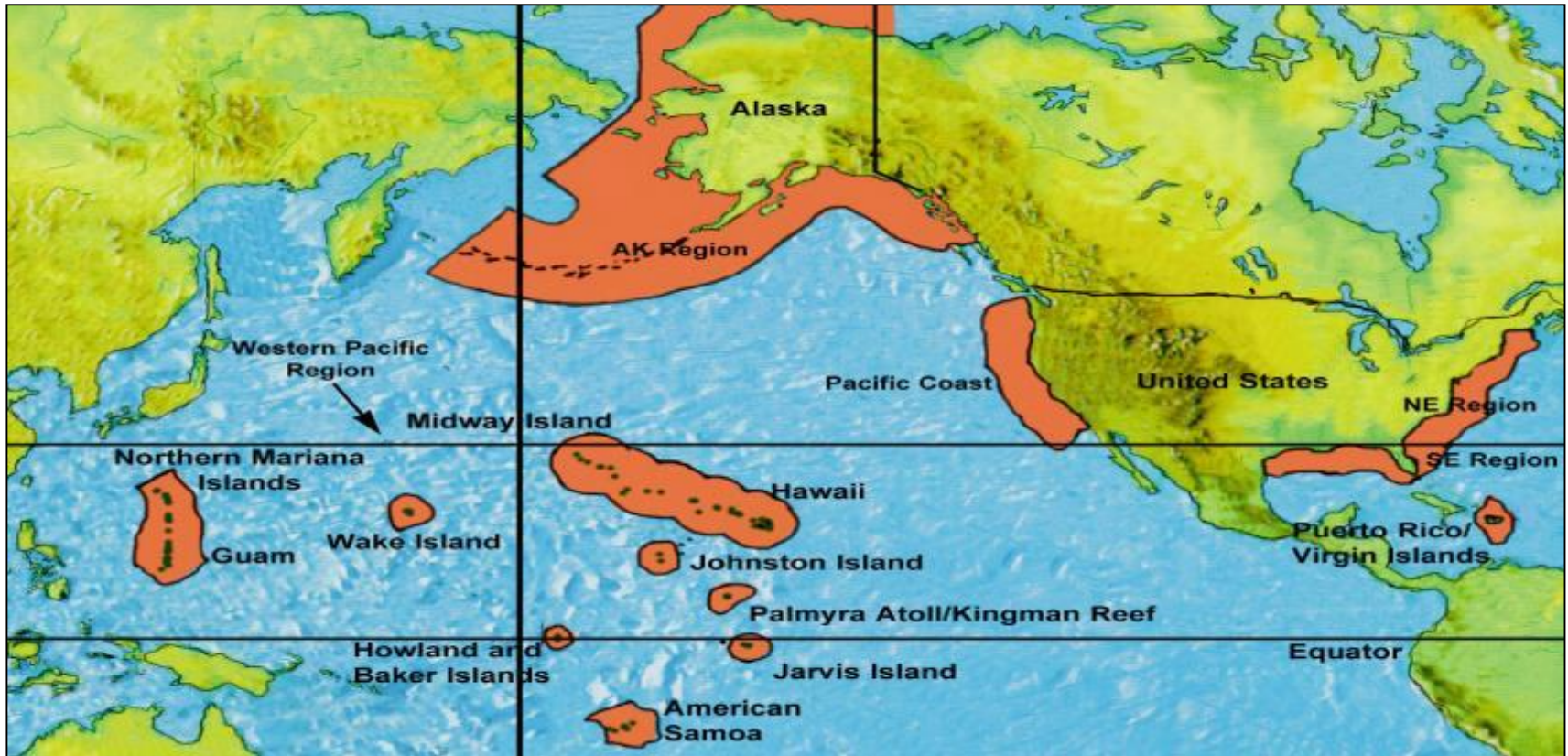
Meeting this mission requires not only state-of-the art **science** and **management** programs, but also a fair, effective, and comprehensive **compliance** and **enforcement** program



# Science, Management, and Enforcement



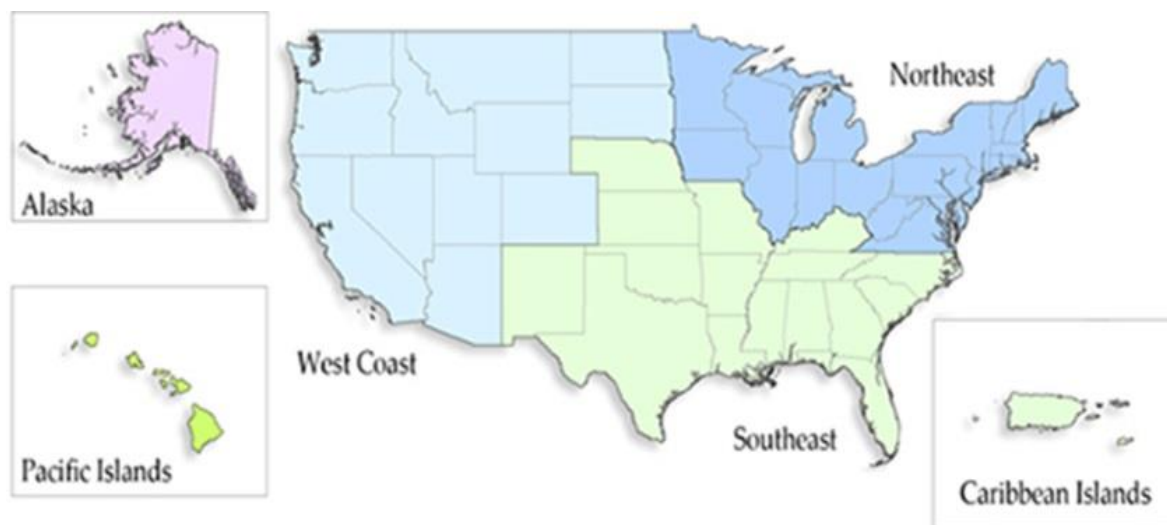
# OLE Jurisdiction



- 3.36 million square miles of open ocean
- More than 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline
- 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and 4 Marine National Monuments
- High seas and international trade relating to U.S. treaties and international law



# OLE Divisions



Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD  
Five Divisions co-located with Regional Offices (NE, SE, AK, WC, and PI)  
Field offices throughout the United States and U.S. territories  
77 Special Agents | 47 Enforcement Officers | 60 Support Staff

# Primary laws OLE enforces



- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Lacey Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act



# Enforcement Operational Priorities

## National Priorities

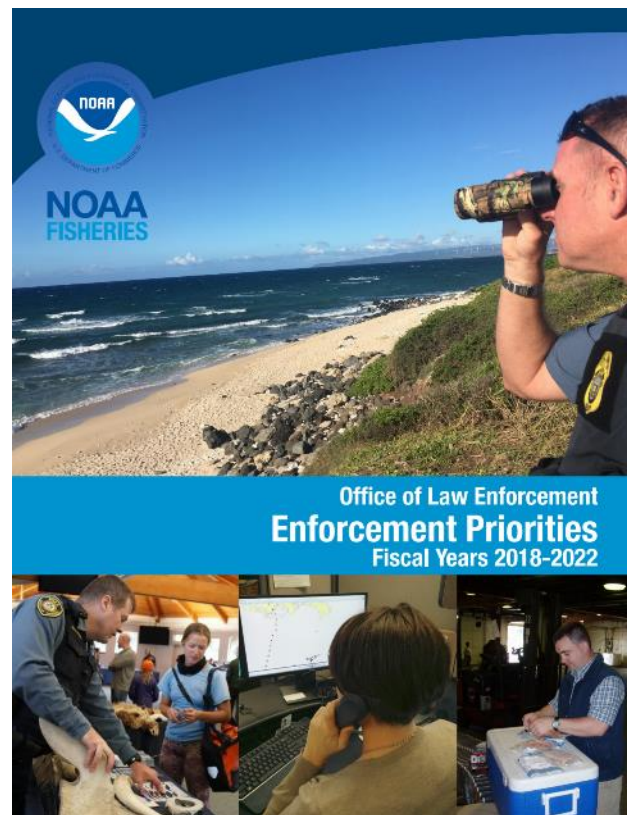
- Support Sustainable Fisheries and Safe Seafood
- Support Recovered and Healthy Marine and Coastal Species and Healthy Habitats

## Supporting Priorities

- Compliance Assistance
- Observers

## Enforcement Priorities

- [ftp://ftp.library.noaa.gov/noaa\\_documents.lib/NMFS/OfcLawEnforcement/OLE\\_Priorities\\_2018-2022.pdf](ftp://ftp.library.noaa.gov/noaa_documents.lib/NMFS/OfcLawEnforcement/OLE_Priorities_2018-2022.pdf)





# Collaborative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations

- Investigations of Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and trafficking in illegal fish and fish product
- Fisheries enforcement capacity building and technical assistance
- Coordination with Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Commercial Targeting & Analysis Center (CTAC)
- Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMO) participation
- Enforcement of SIMP, Port State Measures and other IUU Fishing-related legislation
- NOAA's "Leveling the Playing Field" plan to combat IUU Fishing



*OLE Officers training Indonesian officials  
at a fishing port in Jakarta, Indonesia*

[illegible]

# How we accomplish our priorities

- Outreach and compliance assistance
- Criminal and civil investigations
- Patrols, inspections and monitoring
- Partnerships with state, tribal, federal and nongovernmental organizations
- Collaborative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations
- Use of innovative technological tools

# Partnerships

- **Joint Enforcement Agreements** (JEAs) with 27 coastal states and U.S. territories
- **Federal partnerships** with U.S. Coast Guard, Fish & Wildlife Service, Customs & Border Protection, and others
- Civil cases are prosecuted by **NOAA's Office of General Counsel's** Enforcement Section
- Criminal cases are prosecuted by **U.S. Department of Justice** and **U.S. Attorney's Offices**





# Communication, Education and Outreach

- Comprehensive communications and engagement strategy
- Increased number of events aimed at education
- Creates and utilizes opportunities for direct engagement between fisheries stakeholders and the enforcement program





# Compliance Assistance

OLE has established a comprehensive and effective compliance program

- Built on input from stakeholders
- Expands existing programs and partnerships around the country
- Attends fishing industry events
- Provides outreach and education materials
- Opens industry – enforcement communications



# Innovative technological tools such as Vessel Monitoring System

- Operational Since 1994
- 4,300+ registered vessels
- 1,400 vTrack users
- Monitoring 20+ fisheries/permits nationwide
- 6 active monitoring locations
  - NE, SE, AK (Juneau and Kodiak), NW, PI
- 8 type-approved mobile transceivers (5 companies)



# Why does a strong enforcement program matter?

## Our work

- Helps sustain fish stocks for commercial, recreational, tribal and US territorial users
- Prevents the illegal, unregulated and unreported harvesting and trafficking of fish and wildlife
- Protects marine mammals and endangered species
- Helps to maintain and restore marine & inland water habitats
- Helps to conserve coral reefs and marine protected areas
- Levels the playing field for all industry participants
- Holds accountable those who violate the law



# Enforcement is critical to fisheries management

- NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; to share that knowledge and information with others; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
- Meeting this mission requires not only state-of-the art **science** and **management** programs, but also a fair, effective, and comprehensive compliance and **enforcement** program.

# How can Councils help?

Effective regulations:

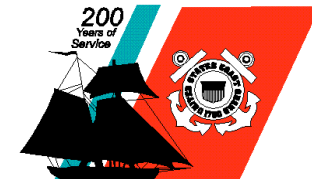
- Simple and easy to understand
- Few as possible and/or concise
- Fish is accountable and traceable throughout the wholesale process



## Enforcement Considerations For Regional Fishery Management Councils

Developed by NOAA Office for Law Enforcement,  
NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, and  
The U.S. Coast Guard

October 2007





# Other considerations

## Enforcement is more difficult if regulations:

- Contain exemptions
- Are complex
- Lack accountability measures (effective paperwork/electronic trail)
- Use estimates (estimated weight of catch, catch composition, discards, etc.)
- Law enforcement resource intensive (resource limits of OLE, Coast Guard, and States)

# Questions?

